Washington, D.C. Visitor's Guide

Office of Congresswoman Angie Craig

Second District, Minnesota

A Note from the Congresswoman

Welcome to Washington! I am excited that you have chosen to visit our nation's capital. My staff and I have put together this guide to help you plan your trip to this historic city. From monuments and museums to restaurants and shopping, there are so many exciting sites to see here in Washington.

I encourage you to try to see as much as you can while you are in town. Whether you chose to rent a bike, tour the city by foot, or utilize the DC Metro system, there are a variety of options to help you get around. Some of my favorite attractions are the National Air and Space Museum, the National Museum of African American History and Culture, and the Phillips Collection. I also always love catching a game at the Washington Nationals Stadium (though my loyalty will always be with the Minnesota Twins!).

Additionally, the Jefferson Memorial, the Washington Monument, and the Lincoln Memorial, are some of D.C.'s most popular attractions. There are also nineteen free Smithsonian museums that have something to capture every interest. It's also great to make a trip to Arlington National Cemetery where you can pay your respects to our fallen veterans and watch the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Washington also has a great food scene. One of my favorite restaurants is Bluejacket, a brewery located in the Navy Yard neighborhood. (need a dish recommendation she likes there or favorite beer). We are also including a list of restaurants recommended by our staff in this guide.

If you have any questions during your visit, or need assistance, please call our office at (202) 225-2271. After all, this office doesn't belong to me, but to you and all the residents of Minnesota's Second Congressional District. Don't forget to share with me some photos of your experience in D.C. via my social media accounts.

Once again, welcome to Washington. Enjoy your stay, and I hope to hear from you soon!

Kindest regards,

Angie Craig

Attractions

United States Botanic Gardens:

100 Maryland Ave SW, Washington, DC 20001
Free Admission
Daily Hours: 10 AM – 5 PM

More than 200 years ago, George Washington envisioned a botanical garden when outlining plans for the capital. This was intended to show the importance of plants to the nation and so far it has done so and more. This garden is not only aesthetically pleasing, it also educates the public about the ecological importance of plants.

President Lincoln's Cottage:

140 Rock Creek Church Road, NW, Washington D.C. 20011
Adult: $15 /Children (6-12): $5 Tour
Hours: Sun – Sat. 9:30 AM – 4:30 PM

This historical cottage was home to the 16th president of the United States, Abraham Lincoln. During the Civil War, Lincoln commuted from the cottage to the White House, through his journey he encountered escapes slaves, wounded soldiers, and residents, leading to the many changes he made while in office and birth of the Emancipation Proclamation. This cottage allows visitors to see into the life of Lincoln.

National Cathedral:

3101 Wisconsin Ave., N.W. Washington, D.C. 20016
Adult (17+): $12 / Youth (5-17): $8 / Children (under 5): Free
Hours: Mon – Fri. 10 AM – 5 PM, Sat. 10 AM – 4 PM, Sun. 12:45 PM – 4 PM
Free Tour Hours: Mon- Sat. 10:15 AM, 11 AM, 1 PM, 2 PM, 3PM, Sun. as available

"A great church for a national purpose," was President Washington's plan when creating the National cathedral in 1791. This cathedral is greatly known for its rose window, St. Peter and St. Paul sculptures, the tomb of president Woodrow Wilson, and many famous services and saints.

Smithsonian Museums

Comprised of 19 free museums, galleries, and the National Zoological Park, the Smithsonian is the largest museum and research complex in the world. Start your journey at the Smithsonian Visitor's Center located inside the Smithsonian Castle on the National Mall where you can plan your entire visit. http://www.si.edu/

Air and Space Museum: Make sure you don't miss this fantastic museum which includes exhibits with hundreds of aircraft, spacecraft, missiles, rockets, and other artifacts. Some highlights include the 1903 Wright Flyer and a lunar rock you can touch.

American History Museum: This important museum includes many scientific, cultural, social, technological, and political developments of the United States. Highlights include the flag that inspired the national anthem, George Washington's military uniform and Dorthy's ruby slippers from The Wizard of Oz.

National Zoo: Always free of charge and open 364 days a year, the Smithsonian's National Zoo is part of the Smithsonian Institution, the world's largest museum and research complex and is home to 2,700 animals representing more than 390 species. This include the famous Giant Pandas.

African American History and Culture Museum: The newest museum in the Smithsonian system opened fall 2016 and is devoted to the documentation of African American life, art, history and culture.

National Portrait Gallery: This significant gallery tells the stories of our nation through the individuals who have characterized the United States for hundreds of years. The America's Presidents exhibit features the nation's only complete collection of presidential portraits outside the White House.

National Museum of the American Indian: This museum cares for one of the world's most expansive collections of Native artifacts, including objects, photographs, archives, and media covering the entire Western Hemisphere, from the Arctic Circle to Tierra del Fuego.

Natural History Museum: This museum includes exhibitions on the earliest human origins, development of human cultures, ancient and modern mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, insects, and sea creatures. Make sure to see the Dinosaurs exhibit, the Hope diamond, and Sant Ocean Hall.

Ticketed Museums

The International Spy Museum:

700 L'Enfant Plaza, SW Washington, DC 20024
Adults: $24.95/ Seniors: $19.95/ Youth (7-12): $14.95/ Child (Under 6): Free
Mon-Sat. 9 AM – 7 PM, Sun. 11 AM – 7 PM

One of the more unique museums in the district, the International Spy Museum is one that you shouldn't miss. Covering the history of spy craft and espionage from ancient times to today, it is an attraction that is sure to keep your entire family interested.

The Octagon House:

1799 New York Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20006
Hours: Thursday-Saturday 1 PM – 4 PM
Admission: Free

Now owned by the American Institute of Architects, the Octagon House was designed by William Thornton, the first architect of the United States Capitol. The house became famous when President James Madison and First Lady Dolley Madison moved in after the British Army burned down the White House in 1814 during the War of 1812. The Madison's would live there until the end of the war. The Treaty of Ghent, the document which ended the War of 1812, was signed in the study of the house.

Mount Vernon:

3200 Mount Vernon Hwy, Mt. Vernon, VA 22121
Adult: $20/ Senior: $19/ Youth: $12
Daily Hours: 8AM to 5PM

A 40-minute drive from Washington D.C., Mount Vernon is filled with stories and history. The home of the first President of the United States, Mount Vernon will immerse you into the life of George and Martha Washington. It is also the site of George Washington's grave.

The Holocaust Museum:

100 Raoul Wallenberg Pl SW, Washington, DC 20024
Hours: Mon-Fri. 10 AM -6:30 PM, Sat. & Sun. 10AM – 5:30 PM

Tickets online.

This museum shows an overview of the Holocaust from 1933 to 1945. The Holocaust was a systematic prosecution of millions of Jews by the Nazi regime. In this museum you can learn more about the refugees, bystanders, and children such as Anne Frank and her story.

Goddard Visitor Center:

9432 Greenbelt Rd, Lanham, MD 20706
Admission: Free
Hours: Tues –Fri: 10 AM – 3 PM

This NASA space exploration visitor center captures your attention like no other. You are able to climb into capsules, put on a kid-sized space suit for children, and learn about the vast space, stars, and galaxies.

Activities

Walk the National Mall:

The Lincoln Memorial, the Washington Monument, the Jefferson Memorial, the list goes on and on. Make your way to the National Mall to start your tour around the monuments. For an even more stunning sight, catch the monuments at night! http://washington.org/washington-dc-monuments-memorials

Tour the Library of Congress:

The Library of Congress offers free guided public tours of the Thomas Jefferson Building year-round, Monday through Saturday. To find out more about when guided tours are offered visit: https://www.loc.gov/visit/tours/guided-tours/thomas-jefferson-building/

Attend a case at the Supreme Court :

Oral arguments are free and open to the public on a first-come, first-serve basis. If you miss the oral arguments, you can attend a courtroom lecture held within the magnificent courtroom where the justices preside. Check out their website to see when they're in session:
http://www.supremecourt.gov/oral_arguments/argument_calendars.aspx

Explore Dumbarton Oaks and Georgetown :

Dumbarton Oaks was created by Mildred and Robert Woods Bliss, collectors and patrons of art and scholarship in the humanities. Today visitors of Georgetown and Washington D.C. are able to explore the beautiful gardens, the mansion and the museum located in historic Georgetown. http://www.doaks.org/

Walk along the river in Alexandria:

The beautiful historic district on the Potomac River, Old Town Alexandria is the heart of the city President George Washington called home. Today Old Town attracts everyone from presidents to pet lovers to some of the city's best restaurants, arts, events, shopping and historic attractions. http://www.visitalexandriava.com/

See the Changing of the Guard:

Visit the Arlington Cemetery (accessible via the Blue Line) and experience courageous patriotism. The guard is changed every hour, on the hour from October 1st to March 31st and every half hour from April 1st to September 20th. http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/

Read the US Constitution and Declaration of Independence:

Some of the most influential documents of our country's history have come to rest at the National Archives. Besides the beautiful architecture, you can also view the Declaration of Independence, 6 the Constitution of the United States of America and the Bill of Rights. Don't forget to check out the other exhibits on the first and second floors. http://www.archives.gov/museum/

Seasonal Attractions

Winter:

Christmas time in D.C. means twinkling lights, snow-dusted monuments, an ornately decorated White House and the National Christmas Tree! This time of year the stoic White House is transformed into a warm and welcoming holiday

haven. Visit the Ellipse outside of the White House to see the majestic National Christmas Tree. For information about the lighting of the tree, visit their website! http://thenationaltree.org/

Spring:

The historic cherry blossom trees are in full bloom during the spring season here in Washington, D.C.! The annual National Cherry Blossom Festival celebrates the beauty and history of the iconic gift of the cherry blossom trees and highlights the long-lasting friendship between the United States and Japan. The month-long celebration includes a magnificent opening celebration, a lavish parade and a fun-for the-family kite festival. http://www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org/

Summer:

See how the Capital celebrates America's favorite pastime! DC loves their sports, and the Nationals are no exception. Visit Nationals Park to soak up the sun and enjoy a great game of baseball, make sure to watch out for park deals on food or drinks! Check out their website for information on tickets as well other promotions going on at the stadium!
http://washington.nationals.mlb.com/index.jsp?c_id=was

Fall:

Hiking in Rock Creek Park Located in the Northwest quadrant, Rock Creek Park provides visitors and natives alike with more than 1,500 acres along the Rock Creek Valley. Walk, run, hike, bike or enjoy a picnic among the beautiful fall scenery! https://www.nps.gov/rocr/index.htm

Staff Restaurant Recommendations

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CAVA- Chipotle style Mediterranean food- multiple locations
District Taco- fast-casual Mexican food – multiple locations
Indigo- fast-casual Indian food in the NOMA neighborhood
Pho Viet- Vietnamese restaurant in the Columbia Heights neighborhood

Daikaya- Fast-paced ramen restaurant in Chinatown

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Dukes Grocery- Burger joint on 17th Street NW

El Chucho

Bread Furst

Farmers Fishers Bakers

Poke Papa

Mintwood Place

Open City

$$$

Le Diplomat

Barcelona

Zatinya

Jaleo

DC Metro Map

System Map

wmata.com
Customer Information Service: 202-637-7000
TTY Phone: 202-962-2033
Metro Transit Police: 202-962-2121

Legend

- RD **Red Line** • Glenmont / Shady Grove
- OR **Orange Line** • New Carrollton / Vienna
- BL **Blue Line** • Franconia-Springfield / Largo Town Center
- GR **Green Line** • Branch Ave / Greenbelt
- YL **Yellow Line** • Huntington / Mt Vernon Sq / Fort Totten
- SV **Silver Line** • Wiehle-Reston East / Largo Town Center

Station Features
- Bus to Airport
- P Parking
- H Hospital
- Airport

Connecting Rail Systems

Transfer Station
Station in Service
Under Construction
Full-Time Service
Service operates Monday-Friday 10:00am - 3:00pm 7:30pm - Close All day Saturday & Sunday

Metro is accessible.

N
Map is not to scale

No Smoking
No Eating or Drinking
No Animals (except service animals)
No Audio (without earphones)
No Littering or Spitting
No Dangerous or Flammable Items